



Friday, April 25, 2003



MOORE COUNTY AG SCOOP

	<u>Staff</u>	<u>County Committee</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Moore County FSA 801 S. Bliss, Suite 102 Dumas, TX 79029	Gary Thomas, CED Sharon Blair, PT Georgia Lanham, PT Janis Wills, PT	Kurt Stallwitz, Chairman Brent H. Clark, Vice-Chairman Jody Stone, Member Doris Harbert, Advisor	Monday-Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm (806) 935-4300

DCP Update

April 1 has come and gone. That means the deadline has passed to update bases and yields unless you started the update process before April 1st. ***If you started the process, you are required to submit all necessary signatures and documents to the office by May 16!*** Farms that don't meet this date will receive their PFC base and yield plus eligible oilseeds. Farms that were not enrolled in PFC will not have a base or yield, making them ineligible for DCP.

Farmers that participated in PFC and did not update their farm's bases and yields will have their farm records rolled over for DCP. Due to software limitations, it will take some time to get these records transferred over to DCP. We will complete this "default" method by May 16, 2003.

June 2, 2003 is the deadline to apply for 2002 and 2003 DCP. Advance payments are now being issued.

Rental Agreements (1-DCP par. 390)

Producers renting ground under a cash agreement with the landowner are required to provide the office a copy of the lease agreement to prove they are in control of the acreage for the crop year. In lieu of a written lease, the landowner may sign the DCP contract for zero shares. Advance DCP payments will be issued on rented property as long as a lease agreement is on file in our office.

EXCEPTION: Farmers that cash-leased a farm last year, had it enrolled in PFC, and are working the ground again this year may sign a "cash-lease certification" form. This form fulfills the landowner signature requirement, but payments under this option can not be issued until July 1.

Acreage rented by a farmer for the first time requires a rental agreement signed by the landowner before payments can be issued. (Or the landowner may sign the DCP contract for zero shares.)

Only individuals with an interest in the crop are eligible for DCP payments. Landowners that cash lease their entire farm are not entitled to DCP payments.

Fruit & Veg. Planting Reminder (1-DCP part 8)

Under DCP, you can plant unlimited acres of any crop except fruits and vegetables. Of course you can plant fruits and vegetables too, just don't plant

them on "contract acres." ***Keep these items in mind:***

- ❑ Farms or producers with a history of growing fruits or vegetables will have their benefits reduced if they elect to *harvest* fruits and vegetables off of DCP contract acres.
- ❑ Farms not participating in DCP can be planted to fruits and vegetables without any penalty and grain commodities planted on those farms are still eligible for loans and LDPs.
- ❑ Moore County is a double cropping region, therefore, fruits and vegetables may be planted in cycle with small grain program crops that are harvested for grain. Contact this office before you plant.

Acreage Reports

Once you complete planting, be sure to file an acreage report with the office. The acreage-reporting deadline is **May 15, 2003**

Acreage reports are required of any producer who:

- ❑ Participates in DCP
- ❑ Requests an LDP or a commodity loan
- ❑ Participates in the 10 – 15 year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- ❑ Participates in NAP

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

Did you miss the LCP filing deadline last year? Applications are now being accepted for LCP-II. If you submitted a late-filed application, you are required to re-file a new application, so do it now. **This is not a new program for livestock producers who already applied and were paid.** And unfortunately, the \$2.5 million gross income rules did not change either. That rule doesn't look like it will change.

Livestock Compensation Program Has Expanded

Moore County farmers are eligible for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP-II). This program is in response to last year's drought. Eligible livestock for LCP are dairy and beef cattle, sheep, goats, and buffalo. Payments will be made on a per head basis.

To be eligible:

Livestock must have been owned for a minimum of 90 calendar days.

The date of "June 1, 2002" must be within the 90-calendar day period.

Producers will provide necessary information, including documentation of livestock owned as of June 1, 2002. Payments are limited to \$40,000 per “person.” Benefits are also limited to those persons who have gross revenue of \$2.5 million or less for the 2001 tax year. Contact the office for details.

New LCP-II Requirements:

Livestock producers should be aware that LCP-II provisions now require eligibility requirements not previously outlined in LCP-1. These additional requirements stipulate that producers meet all conservation compliance provisions and that the applicant's combined per-entity benefits for LCP-I and LCP-II cannot exceed \$40,000. Furthermore, a producer who was determined ineligible for LCP-I for noncompliance (or any other reason) is considered ineligible for LCP-II as well.

Other provision changes for LCP-II require that livestock producers provide sales and proof of death loss documentation for livestock that were sold or died after June 1, 2002. This documentation must be submitted to FSA at the time of application.

Crop Disaster Program

Applications for 2001 or 2002 crops adversely affected by weather will be accepted starting June 6. Watch future newsletters for details or visit the national FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Conservation Reserve Program

A new sign-up will be announced soon to enroll whole fields into the 10-year CRP. Regulations are not final yet, but we know that eligible cropland must have been cropped 4 of the 6 years between 1996-2001, and CRP contracts set to expire are eligible to be offered for re-enrollment. New rules may change hayland eligibility criteria for CRP. Stay tuned!

FSA to Assist Crop Insurance

FSA is helping the Risk Management Agency (RMA) improve the integrity of the crop insurance program. We have been asked to monitor the program, report problems to RMA and assist RMA and insurance providers when auditing certain claims. FSA will refer all suspected cases of fraud, waste and abuse to RMA. You are encouraged to report suspected cases of fraud or abuse to our office. We are not involved with the decision making process. We are merely assisting RMA by gathering facts and reporting observations as they pertain to weather and crop plantings, maintenance and harvest.

Payment Eligibility Requirements for 2003

Due to the number of changes that have been made in farming operations during the previous Farm Bill, producers are encouraged to file updated or new CCC-502's (Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility Review Form). ***No payments for crop year 2003 will be issued unless CCC-502 filing requirements have been met.***

You will need to file an **UPDATED CCC-502U** if:

- ❑ **No changes** have been made to your operation

You will need to file a **NEW CCC-502** if:

- ❑ **Minor Changes** have been made to your operation (producers reporting only minor changes may be able to fill out the CCC-502U (update instead of a new CCC-502).
- ❑ **Major changes** have been made to your operation.

Crop Acreage Reporting and Measurement Service

Before producers on a farm may receive direct or counter-cyclical payments, you must timely submit a report to FSA of all cropland acreage on the farm on an annual basis. By completing an FSA-578 form, you are certifying an accurate account of **ALL** crops planted. This information is used to determine federal farm program benefits for certain programs like NAP. If no FSA-578 is on file for **ALL** crops, you will not qualify for available program benefits. There is a 5% acreage tolerance for all crops - not to exceed 50 acres. FSA provides aerial photography, official acreage and past records to assist producers in reporting. If there is doubt about the accuracy of data reported (by the producer or FSA), measurement services are available for a fee. Measurement fees are as follows:

- ❑ Pre-measurement (staking and referencing):
\$ 55.00 & \$25.00 ea. addl. plot
- ❑ Aerial Observation (aerial slides):
\$ 20.00 & \$.05/acre after 25
- ❑ Ground Measurement:
\$ 35.00 & \$15.00 ea. addl. plot
- ❑ Farm Visits(Drive by only):
\$ 20.00
- ❑ Bin Measurements:
\$ 40.00 & \$15.00 ea. addl. bin
- ❑ Late Filed Certification:
\$ 35.00 & \$15.00 ea. addl. field

Important: Measurement requests will not extend the acreage reporting deadline and producers requesting acreage measurement service must certify the acreage no later than the reporting deadline. Revisions to certified acres may be made after the measurement service is complete - provided that all other eligibility requirements are met. Producers requesting measurement services **AFTER** the final reporting date will **NOT** be allowed to adjust acreage to meet program requirements. Also, producers filing FSA-578 with FSA are encouraged to check with NRCS to insure conservation compliance.

Dates to Remember	
April 1	LCP-II Sign up begins
May 16	DCP Base and Yield Election Signatures
June 2	DCP Application Deadline
June 6	Crop Disaster Begins
May 15	Acreage Reporting Deadline - Fall Seeded Small Grains
July 15	Acreage Reporting Deadline - Spring Seeded Row Crops
TBA	CRP



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